

The Last Shot Got Him

Traditional

Banjo Tuning: gCGCD

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C

First system of banjo tablature. The staff shows a sequence of notes: 2, 4, 3, 4, 4, 5, 4, 0, 5, 4, 0, 0, 3, 4. There are slurs and accents over some notes, and a 'Sl' marking above the first '4'.

G7

Second system of banjo tablature. The staff shows notes: 4, 4, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 2, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 4, 2. There are various markings including 'H2', 'Sl', 'Pc', 'H0', and 'Po'.

C

G7

1-2 C

Third system of banjo tablature. The staff shows notes: 0, 0, 0, 9, 0, 0, 0, 9, 0, 0, 8, 9, 9, 11, 0, 0, 0, 2, 3. There are markings for 'Sl' and '9'.

Fourth system of banjo tablature. The staff shows notes: 4, 4, 5, 4, 0, 5, 4, 0, 0, 3, 4, 4, 4, 0, 2, 2, 0, 0, 0, 2, 2, 3. There are markings for 'Sl' and 'H2'.

G7

C

Fifth system of banjo tablature. The staff shows notes: 4, 4, 4, 2, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 4, 2, 0, 0, 0, 9, 0, 0, 0, 9. There are markings for 'Pc' and 'Po'.

G7

C

Sixth system of banjo tablature. The staff shows notes: 8, 9, 9, 11, 0, 0, 0, 2, 3, 4, 0, 5, 4, 0, 0, 0, 0, 9, 0. There are markings for 'Sl' and '9'.

G7

C

G7

C

3.

This tune comes from a 1930 recording of the Mississippi Possum Hunters, an old time string band led by fiddler John Holloway. It is basically an instrumental interpretation of a song recorded by delta blues great Mississippi John Hurt, who was reportedly a friend. The structure of the tune is very irregular; the A part strain is 10 measures, while the B part strain is only 7. The B part is basically a melodic variation of the A, but without the added turn around. Note that the tune, as played by the Possum Hunters and as tabbed here, ends after a single strain of the A part.

The lyrics to the first verse of John Hurt's The First Shot Missed Him went like this:

The first shot missed him, a mile away,
The last shot got him, so they say,
Oh, the last shot got him,
Oh, the last shot got him.